

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

5 1. A router, comprising a processor for routing a packet on a selected one of a plurality of routes, wherein the plurality of routes include a policy-based route determined in accordance with a dynamic routing protocol.

10 2. The router according to claim 1 wherein the plurality of routes further comprises a destination-based route determined in accordance with a dynamic routing protocol.

15 3. The router according to claim 1 wherein the policy-based route is modified in accordance with the dynamic routing protocol upon detecting a network state change.

20 4. A router including a processor for routing a packet on a selected one of a plurality of routes, characterized in that the plurality of routes are determined in accordance with a dynamic routing protocol and in that the route selection is made in accordance with the result of a comparison of a plurality of traffic parameters in the packet with a predetermined traffic profile.

25 5. The router according to claim 4 wherein the plurality of traffic parameters comprises a source address and a destination address.

30 6. The router according to claim 5 further comprising a source address look-up table having stored source address and an address of a related Internet service provider and wherein the route selection is made in accordance with the result of a

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comparison of source address in the packet with stored source address in the source address look-up table.

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7. The router according to claim 6 wherein the source address look-up table comprises a hardware look-up table.

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8. The router according to claim 5 further comprising a destination address look-up table having stored destination addresses and wherein the route selection is made in accordance with the result of a comparison of destination address in the packet with the stored destination address in the destination address look-up table.

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9. The router according to claim 6 wherein the destination address look-up table comprises a hardware look-up table.

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10. A method of routing signals in a communication network, comprising the steps of:

determining a destination in accordance with a source identifier in a received signal; and

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forwarding said signal to said destination in accordance with a dynamic routing protocol.

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11. The method of claim 10 wherein the step of determining a destination in accordance with a source identifier in a received signal comprises determining a destination in accordance with source address of said received signal.

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12. The method of claim 10 further comprising storing an ISP for one or more source identifiers, and wherein the destination may be determined in accordance with said stored ISPs.

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13. The method of claim 10 wherein the step of forwarding the received signal to said destination in accordance with a dynamic
5 routing protocol comprises forwarding said received signal in accordance with an exterior gateway protocol.

14. A method of routing signals in a communication network, comprising the steps of:

10 comparing destination address of a received signal to one or more known destination addresses;

determining a destination for said received signal in accordance with a source identifier in said received signal when the destination address of said received signal does not match
15 any one of said known destination addresses; and

determining route for said received signal in accordance with a dynamic routing protocol.

15. The method of claim 14 further comprising the step of storing known destination addresses in a destination address look-up table.

16. The method of claim 15 wherein the step of storing known
25 destination addresses in a destination address look-up table comprises storing known destination addresses in a hardware look-up table.

17. The method of claim 14 further comprising the step of
30 storing an ISP for one or more source identifiers in a source address look-up table, and wherein the destination may be determined in accordance with said stored ISPs.

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18. The method of claim 17 wherein the step of storing ISPs in
a source address look-up table comprises storing ISPs in a
5 hardware look-up table.

19. The method of claim 14 wherein the step of determining
route for said received signal in accordance with a dynamic
routing protocol comprises determining route for received signal
10 in accordance with an exterior gateway protocol.

20. The method of claim 14 wherein the step of determining a
destination for said received signal in accordance with a source
identifier in said received signal comprises determining a
15 destination for said received signal in accordance with source
address of said received signal.

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